



Date : 24/09/2020

Pages : 278

Format cm : 15 x 22

Prix : 19.0

EAN : 9782749163895

The Dark Side of Autism Treatments

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Publisher : Le Cherche Midi

Category : Science, Technology, Medicine

Genres : Medicine

Keywords : Autism - Medicine - Alternative medicine - Bird - Health

An exposé of the many pseudoscientific treatments currently preying on autistic individuals and their support networks.

Autism is in: movies, TV, and the news give the impression its cause has come a long way. But 600,000 autists and their families still face the same struggles getting treatment and accessing care in France. Meanwhile, a million-dollar pseudoscientific industry has seized upon this sad state of affairs to thrive. Hypnosis, ear acupuncture, zootherapy, neurofeedback, supplemental oxygen, and hyperbaric medicine are just some of the growing trends. Doctors and researchers are racing these snake-oil salesmen to conduct tests not authorized by health officials: restrictive diets, long-term antibiotic therapy, and even chelation are prescribed for young autistic children without evidence of efficacy. In the course of her reportage, Cattan consulted families, doctors, lawyers, and various organizations.

Sales in France: 5,000 copies